

Legal Authority in Premodern Islam: Yahya B Sharaf Al-Nawawi in the Shafi'i School of Law (Culture and Civilization in the Middle East)

Fachrizal A. Halim

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Offering a detailed analysis of the structure of authority in Islamic law, this book focuses on the figure of Yahy? b. Sharaf al-Nawaw?, who is regarded as the chief contributor to the legal tradition known as the Sh?fi'? *madhhab* in traditional Muslim sources, named after Muhammad b. Idr?s al-Sh?fi'? (d. 204/820), the supposed founder of the school of law.

Al-Nawaw?'s legal authority is situated in a context where Muslims demanded to stabilize legal disposition that is consistent with the authority of the *madhhab*, since in premodern Islamic society, the ruling powers did not produce or promulgate law, as was the case in other, monarchic civilizations. Al-Nawaw?'s place in the long-term formation of the *madhhab* is significant for many reasons but for one in particular: his effort in reconciling the two major interpretive communities among the Sh?fi'ites, i.e., the *tar?qas* of the Iraqians and Khurasanians. This book revisits the history of the Sh?fi'? school in the pre-Nawawic era and explores its later development in the post-Nawawic period.

Presenting a comprehensive picture of the structure of authority in Islamic law, specifically within the Shafi'ite legal tradition, this book is an essential resource for students and scholars of Islamic Studies, History and Law.



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